



## GRAIN &amp; LIVESTOCK REPORT

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MARKET ANALYSIS - April 22 , 2004

Michael Haigh-Assistant Professor  
University of MD Cooperative Extension

Corn trade was under heavy pressure last week due to fund selling and the good start to the planting season. This meant a 25-cent drop in prices. Funds have exited over half of their huge net long position due to a negative turn on the charts. More pressure came this week as a result of Monday's planting progress report, which estimated the crop as 20% planted versus the average 9%. Fundamentally however, the market is still in bullish mode due the fact that a large crop will be vital to keep stocks from slipping further. The tight world supply and demand situation continues but it was evident that weather is the focal point when a huge shipment to an unknown destination on Wednesday went completely unnoticed. Rain in the Midwest put prices on the defensive but it is almost a given that the first day we get a weather scare prices are going to shoot up. Soybean trade was very choppy last week – limit up on Wednesday and limit down on Thursday and on Monday within the first 15 minutes of trading soybeans established a 20-cent trading range! After that the market took a short nap. On Tuesday soybeans took a hit as a result of fund selling combined with increased margin requirements on the front month contracts and then on Wednesday the bottom fell out of the bean market – attributed to even more fund liquidation. Funds offloaded almost everything in response to a higher dollar index (following comments from Chairman Greenspan about the prospect of higher interest rates). Despite this, fundamentals remain bullish as new estimates on Brazilian and Argentine production were lowered. Looks like a long-term support line might be established in the bean market at \$9.00 (nearby contract). We are currently sitting at \$9.35. Wheat was also a victim of fund selling last week and lost 25 cents on the week. Most of that is due to profit taking so things might turn upwards again. However if you take the funds long position and estimate what the price impact would be if the offloaded everything – we might see another 20 cent drop. By the middle of the week we saw some supportive news finally rippled into the market – the crop progress report showed a further decline in the winter wheat condition. Margin increases had little effect on this market but wheat could not be immune to the higher dollar index. The end of the wheat marketing year is May 31<sup>st</sup> and sales usually drop after that but we might not see that big of a drop off this year as Australia is sold out and Argentina is mostly done.

BASIS TABLE

LOCATION	CORN BASIS		SOYBEAN BASIS		WHEAT BASIS	
	CASH(Mav04)	NEW(Dec04)	CASH(Mav04)	NEW(Nov04)	CASH(Mav04)	NEW(Jul04)
Western MD	+42	N/A	-23	N/A	-40	N/A
Central MD	+22	+4	-4	-36	-4	-13
Southern MD	+19	-5	-17	-36	N/A	-31
Upper E. S	+22	+8	-9	-36	N/A	-27
Lower E. S	+21	+13	-29	-16	N/A	-24

## WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

## MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

There were 2.7 **days suitable for field work** for the week. A small amount of planting progress was made for **field corn**, **watermelons**, **cucumbers**, and **snap beans**. **Green peas**, **potatoes**, and **sweet corn** planting progress increased between three and five percentage points this week. **Barley** was in mostly good condition with 16 percent rated excellent, 53 percent good, 25 percent fair, and 6 percent poor. **Winter wheat** was rated 15 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 25 percent fair, and 4 percent poor. Barley and wheat should begin to form grain heads in the next two to three weeks. **Pasture** was rated 18 percent excellent, 53 percent good, 23 percent fair, 4 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor. **Hay supplies** were rated 48 percent adequate, 32 percent short, and 20 percent very short.

## CASH GRAINS - REGIONAL - (\$/bu) DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	4/14	4/21	4/14	4/21	4/14	4/21	4/14	4/21
Western Md	3.48	3.48	9.46	9.12	3.53	3.45	2.58	2.63
Central MD	3.39	3.28	9.93	9.38	4.00	3.81	2.70	2.70
Southern MD	3.34	3.21	10.00	9.19	----	----	----	1.50
Upper E. Shore	3.39	3.26	10.05	9.24	----	----	----	1.60
Lower E. Shore	3.48	3.35	10.12	9.06	----	----	----	1.60

## Soybean Meal

## Lower Eastern Shore

## Dealer's Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton)

Date	4/14	4/21	Date	4/14	4/21
48% Soybean Meal	352.00	325.00	44% Soybean Meal	340.00	313.00

## FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE-REGIONAL (\$/bu) For Harvest delivery Dealer's Avg Quote

Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
	4/14	4/21	4/14	4/21	4/14	4/21	4/14	4/21
Western Md	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD	3.23	3.05	7.31	6.86	3.98	3.81	----	----
Southern MD	3.15	2.97	7.41	6.96	3.80	3.63	1.50	1.50
Upper E Shore	3.28	3.10	7.41	6.96	3.84	3.67	1.60	1.60
Lower E Shore	3.33	3.15	7.50	7.05	3.87	3.70	1.66	1.68

## GRAIN FUTURES - Chicago Board of Trade (cents/bu) -Apr 21, 2004

Corn		Soybeans		Wheat		Soybean Meal <sup>1</sup>	
May	304.00	May	935.00	May	385.00	May	294.50
Jul	309.00	Jul	933.50	Jul	393.25	Jul	292.80
Sep	305.50	Aug	877.50	Sep	399.00	Aug	280.40
Dec	302.00	Sep	774.00	Dec	407.50	Sep	261.80
Mr05	305.00	Nov	721.00	Mr05	412.50	Oct	231.50
May	307.00	Ja05	722.00			Dec	225.30

<sup>1</sup> \$/ton

HAY AND STRAW							
New Holland, PA - \$/ton - Apr 19, 2004 -120 loads							
Alfalfa		Mixed		Timothy		Orchardgrass	
50.00-167.00		35.00-260.00		40.00-195.00		12.00-155.00	
35.00-210.00							
Westminster, MD - \$/bale - Apr 19, 2004 - 211 Lots							
Alfalfa		Alfalfa Mix		Timothy		Timothy Mix	
.80-5.10		1.00-4.90		1.90-4.70		1.00-5.00	
Grass Hay Mix		Straw		Soybean Stubble			
1.10-4.80		2.20-3.80		.25-.50			
Southern, MD - Regional Farmers' Market - \$/bale - Apr 17, 2004							
Alfalfa		Timothy Mixed		Mixed Grass		Orchard Grass	
5.00		3.50-4.00		1.50-5.10		2.00	
Orchard Grass Mixed		Straw					
1.10		2.00					
POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending Apr 24, 2004 - Negotiated Price, (\$/cwt)							
Current Week				Week Ago		Month Ago	
Year Ago							
NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)		76.04		76.42		75.58	
12 City Composite		76.53		76.00		75.30	
57.87							
LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt - Apr 20, 2004							
H-Ch-Pr		90-125 lbs		120.00-135.00		Medium Good	
60- 85 lbs		125.00-140.00		90-120 lbs		88.00-105.00	
30 50 lbs		180.00-190.00		60- 85 lbs		100.00-120.00	
Sheep 537 Hd		45.00-80.00					
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - Apr 22, 2004				DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminster, MD- Apr 21, 2004			
Base Price Range		Carcass Basis		Sows (1-3)			
a.m.		Base 185 lb Hog		300-449 lbs <td colspan="2">Sows</td>		Sows	
Eastern Cornbelt		58.00-67.18		35.50-45.00		300-450 lbs	
Iowa, Minn		58.00-67.31		40.00-46.36		475-650 lbs	
42.00-44.50							
FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -							
Gumboro, DE - Apr 20, 2004				New Holland, PA -Apr 21, 2004			
Head: 270		Trend: None		Head: 397		Trend: Mostly slaughter	
Under 30 lbs		105.00-110.00		40- 49 lbs		75.00-111.00	
30-39 lbs		50.00- 131.00		50- 59 lbs		76.00- 95.00	
		60- 69 lbs		71.00- 86.00		27-35 lbs	
						130.00-155.00	
						37-42 lbs	
						95.00-112.00	
CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Apr 21, 2004				HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Apr 21, 2004			
Apr		82.35		Oct		79.07	
Jun		76.92		Dec		80.00	
Aug		78.37					
May		69.42		Aug		68.25	
Jun		70.62		Oct		57.82	
Jul		70.30		Dec		55.15	
STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)							
Winchester, VA - Apr 19, 2004				Westminster, MD - Apr 20, 2004			
Steers		300- 400 lbs		105.00-124.00		Steers	
		400- 500 lbs		116.50-128.00		200- 400 lbs	
		500- 600 lbs		100.00-125.00		400- 600 lbs	
		600- 700 lbs		95.50-109.00		600- 700 lbs	
		700- 800 lbs		89.00- 93.00		800-1000 lbs	
Heifers		300- 400 lbs		103.00-115.00		250- 450 lbs	
		400- 500 lbs		94.50-115.00		450- 600 lbs	
		500- 600 lbs		97.00-107.00		600- 750 lbs	
		600- 700 lbs		89.00- 99.00		750- 950 lbs	
		700- 800 lbs		83.00- 85.00		Bulls returning to farm	
		800- 900 lbs		79.00- 81.00		#1	
						95- 120 lbs	
						84- 94 lbs	
						95- 120 lbs	
						80- 94 lbs	
						87.00- 115.00	
						Heifers #1	
						120- 130 lbs	
						#2	
						70- 100 lbs	
						230.00-390.00	
						Beef X Bulls Heifers #1	
						80- 100 lbs	
						165.00-195.00	
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - April 24, 2004							
Bull, Holstein		90-120 lbs		152.00-185.00		Plainer	
Heifers, Hols		90-120 lbs		550.00-615.00		90- 120 lbs	
						130.00-170.00	
						90- 120 lbs	
						360.00-420.00	
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)							
Westminister, MD - Apr 20, 2004							
Fed Steers				Fed Heifers			
Ch 1-3		1000-1400 lbs		80.00-82.75		H-Ch Pr	
H-Ch Hols		1200-1300 lbs		80.00-82.00		1200-1300 lbs	
L-Ch				73.00-76.75		Ch	
						1100-1300 lbs	
						84.00-86.25	
						L-Ch Hols	
						70.00-72.00	